



National Park Service
National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom Program
Southeast Region



2012 National Underground Railroad Conference
Escaping to Destinations South: The Underground Railroad, Cultural Identity, and
Freedom along the Southern Borderlands

June 20-24, 2012 ~ St. Augustine, Florida
St. Johns County Convention Center @ Renaissance World Golf Village

Wednesday, June 20

Florida's African American Heritage Legacy Tour

Explore the late 19th and 20th century African American history in Jacksonville and St. Augustine.

Participants will visit Norman Studios, the studio complex of white silent filmmaker Richard E. Norman, which produced high quality feature silent films with all black casts between 1921 and 1928. The Studio's best known film, "The Flying Ace" (1926), was inspired by Bessie Coleman, the first black female airplane pilot, and is said to have helped inspire the Tuskegee Airmen.

Next, we'll take a trip to the Ritz Theatre and Museum located on the site of the 1929 Ritz Theater movie house in Jacksonville's historic African American community of La Villa. During La Villa's height of activity in the 1920s-1960s, it was known as the "Harlem of the South." The mission of the Ritz Theatre and Museum is to "research, record, and preserve the material and artistic culture of African American life in Northeast Florida and the African Diaspora."

Finally, we'll travel back to St. Augustine for a narrated, trolley tour of Historic Lincolnville, a vibrant African American neighborhood founded in 1866 by former slaves and the center of the city's black community. Lincolnville contains a large collection of historic residences and churches, a cultural center that exhibits the neighborhood's development, and a Freedom Trail that traces the important role the city's African American community played in the Civil Rights Movement and passage of 1964 Civil Rights Act.

6:30 pm – 8:30 pm Opening Reception

Performance:

New Mt. Moriah Christian Ministry Senior Choir and S&S Mime

Thursday, June 21

8:00 am Conference Registration

8:00 am - 5:30 pm Exhibit Hall, featuring Gullah Geechee cultural crafts

8:00 am - 9:00 am Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)



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8:45 am – 9:00 am Conference Opening

9:00 am - 10:00 am **Keynote Speaker William Loren Katz**

10:00 am – 11:30 am Opening Plenary “Black Seminole Diaspora: Florida, Bahamas, Texas
and Mexico Descendant Communities”

Rosalyn Howard, University of Central Florida, Department of Anthropology, Director of the
North American Indian Studies Program

Jane Landers, Vanderbilt University, Gertrude Conaway Vanderbilt Professor of History and
Acting Director of Center for Latin American Studies

Shirley Boteler Mock, Research Fellow, Mesoamerican Archaeological Research Laboratory,
University of Texas, Austin

11:30 pm - 12:30 pm Luncheon

12:30 pm - 2:00 pm **Session 1**

Freedom Seekers in Early Florida

Susan Parker, “Spanish Slaves Flee St. Augustine in 1603: Refuge for Spanish Slaves Among
Native Americans in The Early Seventeenth Century”

Roger Clark Smith, “The Façade of British Freedom for Slaves During the American
Revolution”

Mary K. Herron, "Florida's Black Cowboys: Finding Freedom On The Range"

Moderator: Gary Zellar

Session 2

Negotiating Slavery: Maroonage in the American Caribbean

Mark Barnes, “Maritime Maroonage in the American Caribbean”

Milagros Flores, “Status of Enslaved Africans in Dutch and Spanish Colonies as Revealed in
Documents from the National Archives of Spain”

George Tyson, “Maritime Maroonage from St. Croix to Puerto Rico 1734-1848”

Moderator: Larry Rivers

2:00 pm – 2:15 pm Break

2:15 pm - 3:45 pm **Session 3**

Fort Mose, Florida, America’s Black Fortress of Freedom Yesterday and Today

Kathleen Deagan, “Fort Mose: The Historical-Archaeological Project and Its Origins”

Jane Landers, “History and Historical Research on Fort Mose”

Darcie MacMahon, “Presenting Fort Mose: The First Public Exhibit”

Moderator: Thomas Jackson



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Session 4

Seminole Migrations: History and Archaeology of Resistance, Flight and Rebellion in the Southeast and Southwest

Brent Weisman, "Seminole Maroon Adaptations: What Does the Archaeology of the Freedom Seeker Look Like and What Can We Learn From It?"

Uzi Baram, "Including Maroon History on the Florida Gulf Coast: Recovering a Haven for Freedom on the Manatee River"

Gary Zellar, "The First to Fight for Freedom: African Creeks and African Seminoles and Opothleyahola's Exodus to Kansas, 1861"

Moderator: Canter Brown

3:45 pm - 4:00 pm Break

4:00 pm- 5:30 pm **Session 5**

Diggin' the Dirt: Contributions from Archaeology and Material Culture

John Jameson, "The Work of the Southeast Archaeological Center in Providing Tangible and Intangible Links and Contributions to the Underground Railroad Story"

Thadra Stanton, "Archaeological Investigations for Freedman's Colony, Roanoke Island"

Stephen Wise, "New Evidence of a Gathering Place for Emancipation; Archaeological Investigation of the Forks of the Road Slave Market in Natchez, Mississippi"

Moderator: Kathleen Deagan

Session 6

Circular Migrations: Florida and Bahamian Connections

Grace Turner, "A Voice from the Bahamas: An Historical Overview of the Movement of Bahamians of African Descent Between the Bahamas and South Florida"

Elvira Walker Coaston, "Truth versus Reality: The Liberated and The Enslaved in Antebellum Key West"

Rita Pratt, "The Original Black Seminole/Sammy Lewis and the Black Seminole Descendents of Red Bay's/Lewis Coppice, Andros, Bahamas"

Moderator: Enid Curtis Pinkney

7:00 pm-9:30 pm

Banquet Celebration

Performance: Freedom is Coming

Matt Hampsey, Bruce Barnes, New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park
and Nancy Dawson, Music is Spirit

Friday, June 22



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- 8:00 am Registration
- 8:00 am-5:00 pm Exhibit Hall, featuring Gullah Geechee Cultural crafts
- 8:00 am-8:45 am Continental Breakfast (Exhibit Hall)
- 9:00 am-10:30 am **Session 7**

'We Reach Freedom When Day Clean': Tourism and Teaching about Bahamian Sanctuary for the Black Seminoles of Florida

Serena Franklin, "Including the Black Seminole Diaspora in the Bahamian History Curriculum: A Psychosocial Development Approach"

Rosalyn Howard, "Community Assessment as an Empowerment Tool: Cultural Heritage Planning and Process in Red Bays, Andros Island, Bahamas"

Deborah Ziel, "The Role of Ethnoarchaeology in 'Giving Forward' to the Community of Red Bays, Andros Island, Bahamas"

Moderator: Jane Landers

Session 8

Re-Presenting the Memory of Military Sites

William Stanton, "Armed Resistance in *La Florida*: the "Negro Fort" at Prospect Bluff on the Apalachicola River, Florida"

Bill Ryan, "The Search for Old Kings Road – an Historic Slave Escape Route into Florida"

Dinizulu Gene Tinnie, "Re-Presenting Seminole Maroon Heritage: The Case of the Loxahatchee"

Moderator: Robert Stanton

10:30 am – 10:45 am Break

10:45 am-12:15 pm **Session 9**

The Black Seminole Freedom Legacy of West Central Florida: Tales of Survival and Tactical Military Resistance

John Griffin and Matthew Griffin, "Floridian Black Seminole Descendants' Perspectives on the Historic Alliance and Induction into the Seminole Tribe"

Nathan Lawres, "Native and African Cultures and their Resistance to Oppression in Florida"

Moderator: Rosalyn Howard

Session 10

Gullah Cultural Characteristics among the Florida Maroons and Tracing the Freedom Trail through Spanish Florida



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Anthony Dixon, “Gullah/West African Origins and Cultural Characteristics of the Florida Maroon Societies”

Annette Kashif, “Escaping With Linguistic Agency: Gullah/Geechee Names/Naming Practices”

Ralph Johnson, “The Saga of Africans of Spanish Florida and Their New Promised Land: San Augustin De La Nueva Florida, Cuba”

Moderator: Antoinette Jackson

12:15 pm- 1:15 pm Luncheon

1:15 pm- 2:45 pm **Session 11**

Practical and Political Considerations in Developing Heritage Tourism and Cultural Preservation Initiatives

Michael Allen, “The Material Culture of the Gullah Geechee National Heritage Corridor”

Michelle Lanier, “North Carolina Freedom Roads: The Development of a Statewide Underground Railroad Trail Program”

William Clark, “The Politics of Making Fort Mosé Public”

Moderator: Susan Parker

Session 12

African Retentions and Gullah Connections among the Seminole Maroons

Alcione M. Amos, “The Black Seminoles are the Gullah that Got Away”

Shirley Boteler Mock, “African-derived Traditions among Black Indian Communities”

Cynthia Holl Porcher, “Expanding the Gullah Geechee Diaspora”

Moderator: Tanya Price

2:45 pm-3:15 pm Poster Session / Break (Exhibit Hall)

3:15 pm-5:00 pm **Black Seminole Descendants’ Convocation**

Remarks: Robert Stanton

6:30 pm - 9:00 pm **Explore Historic St. Augustine**

Saturday, June 23

Escaping Enslavement and the Fight for Freedom in Colonial Florida

Explore the history of African enslavement in the American colonies and the determination of freedomseekers to escape to Spanish Florida and defend their freedom.



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Participants will visit Kingsley Plantation, which was owned by Zephaniah Kingsley and his wife, Anna Madgigine Jai, who was from Senegal, West Africa, and was purchased by Kingsley as a slave. Freed in 1811, Mrs. Kingsley actively participated in plantation management, acquiring her own land and enslaved workers. The plantation site includes the remains of 23 tabby cabins (originally 32) which were the homes of the 200 men, women, and children who lived and labored on Kingsley Plantation.

Next participants will trace the escape of Gullah Geechee freedom seekers from the British Colonies to St. Augustine, Florida through a visit to Fort Mose State Historical Park. In 1738, the Spanish governor of Florida chartered the settlement of Gracia Real de Santa Teresa de Mose, or Fort Mose for short, as a settlement for those fleeing slavery from the English colonies in the Carolinas. Over the next 25 years, Fort Mose and Spanish Saint Augustine became a sanctuary for Africans seeking liberation from the tyranny of British colonial slavery. Tour participants will attend the Battle of Bloody Mose Anniversary Commemoration, an annual event that uses first person interpretation and living history demonstrations to illustrate the battle between British and Spanish colonial forces that took place on June 26, 1740 to control the territory and re-enslave the African residents.

The tour will culminate with a first-person interpretation of the capture of Seminole chief Osceola and his small band of warriors who resisted removal from Florida during the Second Seminole War. One of Osceola's wives was a black woman and several of his warriors were Africans who had escaped slavery and settled within Seminole Tribes

Saturday, June 23

Post Conference Workshop: Teaching and Interpreting the Underground Railroad

8:30 to 10:15 **Complicating Interpretation: Strategies for Presenting Slavery through First Person Narratives**

Ted Johnson, "At What Price? Interpreting Controversial Passages to Freedom"

Nancy Dawson, "Stories from da Dirt: Documenting the Escape Stories of African American Women Using Theatre"

James Bullock, "Being Francisco Menéndez: Living History and Fort Mose"

10:15 to 10:30 Break

10:30 to 12:00 **Looking for Angola: Creative Ways to Engage School Students in the Search and Study of the Angola Settlement**

Vicki Oldham and Elizabeth Smith, Screening of Documentary and round table discussion of the "Looking for Angola" project.

12:00 to 1:00 Lunch



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1:00 to 2:30 **Throwing Away the Textbook: Methods for Teaching “Missing” History**

Glennette Tilley Turner, “Engage and Educate your Students about Fort Mose with Standards-Based Strategies and Participatory Activities”

Martha Bireda, “The Gullah War of Resistance or the First Seminole War”

Susan B. Hawkins, “Thoughts on Presenting History: Lessons Learned at Fort Donelson National Battlefield”

2:30 to 2:45 Break

2:45 to 4:15 **Investigating a Kingsley Slave Cabin: An Archeological Approach to Teaching 4th and 5th Graders About Slavery**

Sarah Miller, Emily Palmer, and Amber Grafft-Weiss, Presentation on Kingsley Slave Cabin lesson in the Project Archeology “Investigating Shelter” series which integrates concepts from history and social studies with an emphasis on science

Sunday, June 24

Gullah Geechee and Black Seminole Cultural Heritage Festival

Fort Mose State Historic Park

15 Fort Mose Trail

St. Augustine, Florida 32084

- Demonstrations of traditional crafts and skills such as basket weaving, dollmaking, woodcarving, herbal remedies, storytelling and foodways.
- Performances, Story telling and Art Exhibits
- 19th Century Black Seminole Living History Encampment
- Oral History and Artifact Preservation Project
- Children's Activities
- Vendors



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Gullah Geechee and Black Seminole Cultural Heritage Festival

Sunday, June 24, 2012

Fort Mose State Historic Park

15 Fort Mose Trail

St. Augustine, Florida 32084

Children's Activities:

- Zelda Grant
- Nancy Christensen
- Nina Cordova-Ami
- Kate Merrick

Performance:

- Gullah Geechee Ring Shouters
- Raghieb Asim Hasan
- Astrid Kurpievska
- Chris Kastle
- Matt Hampsey, Bruce Barnes, and Nancy Dawson

Crafts/Demonstration:

- Nina Cordova-Ami
- Red Bays, Andros Island, Bahamas craftspeople



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Exhibit Hall

Poster Session: Friday, June 22, 2:45 to 3:15 pm

- Carol Poplin -- Harriet Tubman & the Combahee River
- Zelda Grant – African Textile Bookmarks
- Nancy Christensen – African Masks, Fort Mose

Invited Exhibitors:

- Joseph McGill
- Kate Merrick
- Nina Cordova-Ami
- NPS Southeast Archeological Center



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AFFILIATED EVENTS

***Flying Aces* Movie Screening, Tuesday evening, June 19th (Tentative)**

Battle of Bloody Mose', Saturday, June 24th